What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #198:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Happy Friday everyone! I'm getting a later start than I'd like on this newsletter but once again my existence has been a cacophony of online/live sales, several trips up to my new office in Chicago (8 S. Michigan, Suite 3600) to coordinate that. This was an entirely new build out floor to ceiling so everything was re-done. Stressful times but also very exciting to see this year-long project come to fruition. For those of you that have contacted me to come in, the wait is almost over. I'm technically open for business but there are still bookshelves to be built and installed (already ordered at least), furniture to buy and other important things to be done. That said, anyone is welcome to visit if they contact me for an appointment.

There are still some very important auctions on the horizon. This newsletter is very timely so if you are interested in any that I describe below you should be quick about either getting in contact with the auction house or me if you want to register.

Oslo Myntgalleri (19-20 November)

This sale starts tomorrow, however the portion that I would like to discuss begins on Sunday early in the morning. The ancient coins begin sometime in the early morning with lot 906 and going through lot 1157. The last Oslo Myntgalleri auction that I participated in there was a glorious collection of ancient coins. You have to be cognizant of the Norwegian Kroner to USD rate as bidding without some thought might result in a huge bill. At the moment it is relatively easy as 1 USD is about 10 NOK. For those not mathematically inclined this means a coin that is 50000 NOK is about 5000 USD. Easy peasy.

Back to the coins.....The Greek section is a decent selection of mid-level coins. Nothing super high grade but generally with a good pedigree. With lot 998, you come to a beautifully struck light stater of Croesus with the lion/bull imagery. This is followed by several other coins of Croesus, mostly in silver. A handful of good coins. Lot 1019 is not in wonderful condition but is a rare 1/10 AV stater of Evagoras from Cyprus. Frankly these never come in very pristine condition but they usually bring strong hammers. This is followed by a number of nicely struck and reasonably priced Seleucid silver coins. For those that are interested in countermark coins (think of the Chris Howgego book on countermarks) the first Roman lot is a fascinating Roman provincial coin struck in the city of Flaviopolis-Flavias under Domitian (was the family of Vespasian

area for those looking for a new collecting area. Lot 1065 is a pretty artistically complete example from the Republican moneyer M. Acilius M.f. Lots 1081 and 1082, two Spintria (or sex tokens) struck during the reign of Tiberius, are not often encountered in auction. Apparently the emperor Tiberius got slightly irritated that his image was being used for such acts of impropriety so he ordered the Spintria to be used instead. These fascinating little coins more or less show the sex act that one wanted to be serviced with. Pretty crazy yet a compelling piece of history. Lot 1087 is an Otho with a well-detailed hairstyle, often something that drives buyers of the twelve Caesar collection to mad bidding. Lot 1089 is a wonderful contorniate bronze (more of a medal that was distributed at events rather than a coin used for commerce or payment) that comes from a 1976 collection. The pedigree is Stanley Gibbons and it is tempting to say it is from the collection of the stamp collector but that would mean that Gibbons lived to a ripe old age of 136 years old. Likely not. This auction can be accessed via Sixbid or Numisbids. Alternatively if you are interested in having my representation please get in touch with me soon. I will be getting up for this sale (yawn).

Nomos 25 (20 November)

I finally received the long awaited Nomos 25 catalogs. Admittedly I could only send a few out so for those that want a catalog please get in touch or post sale I can send them with your winnings if we work together. The 25th live sale of Nomos (note this is in person and not just online). I urge those of you that don't see the fun in attending a live sale to try it out. I hope that none of this entirely disappears since we are so entrenched in the world of online bidding. There is no comparison.

Anyway, back to the coins. There are 431 coins in this sale and some collections to mention. As is typically the case, Nomos has a lovely selection of Greek coins in their auction, many with outstanding pedigrees. With the state of the market I don't expect the hammers to be for the faint of heart but I always recommend that collectors who are interested don't just about face and walk away. There are more than enough coins out there for collectors at all levels. There are some major pieces in this sale so I'll point out a few. Lot 32 is a rather rare type from Akragas showing a quadriga in full gallop with a nymph at the helm on the obverse and a sea creature (ketos) in the exergue. The reverse is really where the rarity comes in. A striking image of two eagles one head upraised the other looking down upon the dead hare that is in their talons. It is quite an image. This coin has an impressive pedigree to match (Ex Hunt, Ex M&M 1982 and Ex Schweizerischer Bankverein 1977). Lot 55 is an extremely scarce tetradrachm from Siculo-Punic with a female head (possibly Dido?) on the obverse and a palm tree with a lion walking right in front. The coin doesn't have a lengthy auction pedigree but the type is hard to come by. Lot 65 is a gold stater of Pantikapion in the modern day area of the Black Sea. It has a gorgeous head of Pan on the obverse. The reverse shows a griffin standing on a piece of grain. Certainly grain was already a widely popular crop for that area before we started calling it the "bread basket of the world". Lot 80 is a very early Macedonian tribal piece, from the Derrones. The obverse, while stylistically crude, is extremely well struck. This also has a fantastic older pedigree. Lot 145 exhibits a gorgeous archaic Athena on the reverse, tremendously well-struck and has a pedigree dating back to 1884. There are a large assortment of high quality Cyzicus staters with a variety of images. Having a collection of all the different varieties of Cyzicus staters would be a fun area to collect as there are so many. Lot 273 is a charming portrait bronze of Julius Caesar. Lot 298 is a rare aureus of Pertinax and a plate coin in the study by Lempereur. For those that are interested in Byzantine seals there is an extensive group of them offered. Finally the sales ends with a nice collection from the Dr. Pelc collection of Italian Papal coins. I will be actively bidding in this sale so please get in touch should you need my help.

NAC 133-135 (21 November)

assist U.S. clients with getting their coins from the Zurich auction with hassle-free importation as well as the option to pay in USD. Of course it is important to remember that my partnership with NAC is just that, a partnership, so we do not share client information. I will be bidding their sale as I would in any other auction so please get in touch soon should you need my help. I'm also able to help if you need assistance just registering or otherwise for the sale.

There are so many rarities and beautiful coins in this first catalog, I'm not sure where to start. What **auction 133** provides are some types that just don't come around often. Lot 9 for example, is a stunning tetradrachm of Agrigentum. The typical style of these coins mirrors lot 7 and 8. Lot 9 bears more resemblance to the coinage of Syracuse than to Agrigentum. A quadriga graces the obverse and the image of two eagles holding a dead hare in their talons on the reverse. It is truly a work of numismatic art. Lot 13 comes from the Pozzi collection of 1921 (sold through Naville) and features a large fly symbol on the reverse. One of my favorite symbols on ancient coins. Lots 21 and 22 are two dazzling examples of Syracusan Dekadrachms by the artists Kimon and Euainetos respectively. Both coins have pedigrees, although lot 22 has one that is quite noteworthy, from Egger 1906 and also from the estate of the famed numismatist Jacob Hirsch. Lot 26 is a tetradrachm from Carthage that has a beautiful image of a prancing horse. Lot 29 is a type that does not come along often, a beautiful ¾ facing head tetradrachm from Amphipolis. Lot 55 features an elegant Larissa on a drachm from the Greek city state of the same name. Probably one of the most fascinating coins is lot 65. An extremely rare stater from Pherai. Also a ¾ facing head of the Ennodia, this coin comes from the BCD collection and was previously purchased in a G&M auction in 1989. One of the more evasive and rarely offered types is lot 77, a tridrachm from Delphi. A novice collector may see a coin with a big test cut. A sophisticated buyer will recognize this as being from the Asyut Hoard and showing a spectacular image of two rhytons on the obverse. It is a stunning piece of history. There are so many other coins not mentioned so I urge you to check it out.

Auction 134 is an amalgamation of various consignors of Greek coinage and has some outstanding options. There are 105 coins in this catalog. Almost all of the coins are in pristine condition and many have nice pedigrees to match. Lot 168 is an outstanding example from Metapontum. The facing head of Demeter is unlike many that are available and it stems from Charles Gillet collection (think Kunstfreund fame). Lot 174 is an exceptional example of a dinomos from Thurium. The obverse of Athena has beautiful details with a finely detailed scylla. Lot 189 is an archaic tetradrachm from Syracuse with an impressive rendition of Arethusa on the reverse. Lot 195 is a rarely seen gold tetralitron from Syracuse with a sculpted athlete on the reverse. It comes from the Moretti collection. Lot 226 is a very early Corinth stater in fantastic condition. One of my favorite coins is lot 227, a gorgeous tetradrachm from the 106th Olympiad (Elis). For those familiar with coinage of Elis, it is rare to find one in such pristine condition. It also has an incredibly lengthy and impressive pedigree going back to the Consul Weber and Jameson collections. It was formerly in the Money Museum in Zurich and was deaccessioned for auction some years ago. Finally lot 229 is a stater from Gortyna that is so unusual it led me to ask my friend who specializes in such coinage if it was okay! He said, "yes, absolutely just a different style". You'll just have to check it out to see. I love this bizarre looking coin.

Finally **Auction 135** is a beautifully curated collection of Roman gold coins. It is 155 coins and most come with pedigrees. There are some stunners like lot 276, an aureus of Galba with luscious red toning which indicates it came from the Boscoreale Hoard of 1895. Lot 291 is a great Hadrian aureus from his "travel series". This exceptional coin from his travels to Egypt has a pedigree going back to 1964. Lot 309 is a coin from Lucius Verus from the Pierpont Morgan collection and shows a youthful bearded emperor. Lot 328 is an aureus of Julia Domna which features her two sons, Caracalla and Geta on the reverse. This coin comes from the 1938 sale of Ars Classica and the de Sartiges collection. One of the more rare types is lot 358, an aureus of Quintillus, the short lived emperor from 270 AD. This coin comes from the 2005 Leu "Perfectionist" catalog and

to page through to notice them but lot 384 is a rare aureus from Siscia of Galeria Valeria, wife of Galerius Maximianus. Coins of this quality do not come up everyday. Finally, lot 392 is a stunning medallion of 6 solidi from Constantine the Great. This actually comes from the "Man in love with Art" collection but obviously does not fit in the first catalog with only Greek coinage.

Coin of the Week

MACEDONIA. Mende. c. 430-423 BC. AR Tetradrachm, 17.23g (25mm, 6h). Bearded Dionysos lounging on donkey; Dionysos wears a laurel wreath and holds a kantharos which he supports on his raised knee / MEN/ΔA/I/ON. Grapevines with five bunches of grapes; all within a square incuse.

Pedigree: From the Robert Käppeli collection. Ex Adolph Hess - Bank Leu [3], 1956, lot 266

References: AMNG pl. 1, 16. Noe, Kaliandra 81 = MGK 455 (this coin). Babelon IV 984, pl. 316, 2. Franke-Hirmer 406. Franke/Marathaki fig. 56. HGC 3, 547

Grade: Beautifully struck with nice cabinet toning. Some wear the top part of the legend on the reverse. Mint State / aEF

Price: $37,500

gk1574

Buy Coin

Watch coin in hand

This coin comes from a 1956 Hess - Leu collaboration auction and is from the Kalliandra Hoard of 1913(?). The hoard was first published by Sydney Noe of the ANS in the 1925 edition of Numismatic Notes and Monographs (NNM). Composed of 320+ silver coins, after discovery, it was dispersed among the following museums: London, Paris, Berlin, Athens, as well as in the trade and with certain prominent individuals, listed in the historic record as, R. Jameson, G. Empedocles and E.T. Newell. In 1926, Noe wrote further about the hoard. In fact, this coin is featured on plate IX, 81 in that study. The hoard's burial is likely prior to 423 BC, which was when the city was plundered by the Athenians. After this time, the Athenian monetary law went into effect and it is reasonable to assume that there was a discontinuation of this tetradrachm type. After this hoard, scholars determined that Mende must have been more commercially prominent than originally thought. The coins of Mende are filled with beautiful and celebratory imagery of the god Dionysus reclining drunkenly on the back of a donkey. One almost wants to pick up a glass of wine to participate in the festivities. The reverse shows the city state name along with grape vines, the essential element to the creation of wine.

Link to coin on website:
https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/macedonia-mende-c-430-423-bc

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website:
https://www.shannaschmidt.com/

Until next week!
Shanna

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